



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act Important and Necessary**

This morning, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4432, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act. The bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS), Rep. G. K. Butterfield (D-NC), and 36 other members of Congress, would create a mandatory premarket safety review of all crops containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) destined for the food supply and preserve the FDA's 100-year management of food labeling by preventing a disruptive state-by-state patchwork of labeling requirements.

"We can respect American's desires to know whether their food contains GMOs while keeping our food supply both safe and affordable," Congressman Pompeo stated. "The failure to pass this legislation risks increasing consumer food prices by \$500 per year, while creating a bureaucratic nightmare for Kansas farmers. The American people demand commonsense solutions, and that is what H.R. 4432 delivers."

Witnesses at the hearing included Michael Landa, Director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration; Tom Dempsey, CEO of the Snack Food Association (SFA); Alison L. Van Eenennaam, a Ph.D in Animal Genomics and Biotechnology from U.C. Davis; and Stacey Forshee, a Kansas farmer, rancher, and mother.

Mr. Dempsey confirmed that a patchwork of GMO labeling laws would hurt consumers by unnecessarily raising the cost of food. "Absent a federal GMO solution, manufacturers will have essentially three options in order to comply with state labeling law[s]: order new packaging for products, reformulate products so that no labeling is required, or halt sales to that state. Each option is difficult, costly, time-intensive, and at worst, could eliminate jobs and consumer choice in the marketplace."

Dr. Van Eenennaam testified that the science behind GE crops is sound and conclusive: GMOs are safe. "The World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the British Royal Society, and every other major scientific body and regulatory agency in the world that has examined the evidence has come to the same conclusion that consuming foods containing ingredients derived from GE crops is no riskier than consuming

the same foods containing ingredients from crop plants modified by conventional plant improvement techniques.”

Kansan Stacey Forshee testified that GE products are increasing crop yields, and decreasing water and pesticide usage. “The fact of the matter is with more than seven billion people living on the planet today, and every projection showing more than nine billion living on the planet by 2050, farmers and ranchers all across the world must double our food production to provide the food, fuel and fiber to sustain a growing world population. On my farm, biotechnology is a way to make this happen.”

The legislation is supported by a wide range of Kansas and U.S. farm and food groups including the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Grain and Feed, Kansas Corn Association, KS Sorghum Association, Kansas Wheat Association, Kansas Soybean Association, BIO Kansas, Cargill, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Beverage Association, AACC International/ American Phytopathological Society, Agricultural Retailers Association, American Bakers Association, American Beverage Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Feed Industry Association, American Frozen Food Institute, American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition, American Seed Trade Association, American Soybean Association, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, Biotechnology Industry Organization, CropLife America, Corn Refiners Association, Council for Responsible Nutrition, Flavor & Extract Manufacturers Association, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Grocery Manufacturers Association, Independent Bakers Association, International Dairy Foods Association, International Franchise Association, National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Confectioners Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Grain & Feed Association, National Fisheries Institute, National Milk Producers Federation, National Oilseed Processors Association, National Restaurant Association, National Turkey Federation, North American Millers Association, Pet Food Institute, Snack Food Association, U.S. Beet Sugar Association, and U.S. Canola Association.

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